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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6997

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 002136

SIPDIS

IO/RHS FOR REBECCA JOVIN
DRL/MLGA FOR LYNN SICADE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/08/2018
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNGA](#) [UN](#) [KE](#)
SUBJECT: ACTION REQUEST: UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIRD
COMMITTEE 2008 HUMAN RIGHTS PRIORITIES

REF: SECSTATE 93981

Classified By: Deputy Political Counselor Rachel Meyers for
reasons 1.4 (b and d)

11. (U) On September 9, Deputy Polcouns and Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Anthony Andanje, Head of the Division for International Organizations and Conferences at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Until recently, Andanje served at the Kenyan Mission to the UN as Kenya's representative to the UN's Fifth Committee, and is well versed in UN procedures.

12. (C) Andanje stated that Kenya's default position in the Third Committee is to vote with the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), except when Kenya has a national interest in a particular issue. He said this position applies with regard to no-action motions, as well as country-specific resolutions. However, Andanje said that Kenya would consider both no-action motions and country-specific resolutions on a case-by-case basis. Andanje stated that Kenya's position on country-specific resolutions concerning DPKR, Burma, and Iran is unlikely to change from 2007 (Note: Kenya supported the resolution on DPKR, and abstained on Burma and Iran). He noted that he had traveled to Iran twice this year, most recently to attend the NAM ministerial conference. (Comment: Kenya continues to broaden its ties to Iran. The Iranian Minister of Agriculture was in Nairobi on August 12-15 for the fifth session of the Kenya-Iran Joint Commission for Cooperation. Kenya was represented by the Minister of Foreign Affairs. End Comment.) Regarding possible resolutions on Zimbabwe and Sudan, Andanje noted continued Kenyan support for the political process underway in Zimbabwe, but stated Kenya that country-specific resolutions are "sensitive" for Kenya. (Note: Andanje did not express Kenya's position on a possible resolution on Sudan. However, it is our assessment that Kenya is unlikely to support a resolution on neighboring Sudan. End Note.) Andanje stated that Kenya would not vote for any proposed resolutions on "defamation of religion", noting that such a concept could be a double edged sword in Kenya's pluralist society.
RANNEBERGER